

# Livingprague Newsletter

February 2023



EARLY MORNING ON THE CHARLES BRIDGE

In the February newsletter I'll tell you about the Water Wheel and it's associated water demon, I'll tell you why we have a memorial to the Victims of Collectivisation, we'll take a look at the traditional Czech meal of Plum Dumplings and you'll learn why Alfons Mucha became one of the most famous people in the country.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at why you might like to visit the Illusion Art Museum which is fun for adults and kids. Blast from the Past includes updated pictures of different options on the Prague Hot Dogs post and a Facebook post with a picture of the river in the afternoon sun.

Just before you launch into the newsletter take a few seconds to think if your friends or colleagues might find it interesting. If so please consider forwarding to them and they can [subscribe to the newsletter](#) separately if they want.

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# Featured New Content

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## The Water Wheel and the Demon

One of the popular sights in Prague, the Water Wheel has its own history but people often miss the associated little green man and his significance. [Read more....](#)



## Memorials – Victims of Collectivisation

The great Stalinist agricultural experiment of the 1920s resulted in the deaths of more than 10 million people so you'd think they'd scrap that idea. But no, it was applied to Czechoslovakia from 1948 resulting in the devastation of the local agricultural economy and the persecution of thousands. [Read more....](#)



### **Czech Food – Plum Dumplings**

When we talk about plum dumplings you could be mistaken for thinking that it's a dessert but there are some variations that you eat as a main meal. Here's an option that you may find on a menu where potato is one of the ingredients. [Read more....](#)

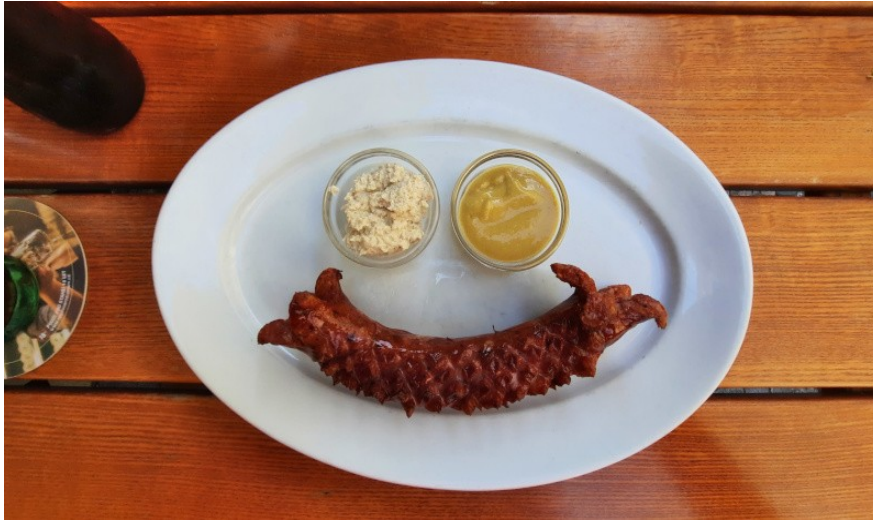


### **Famous Czechs – Alfons Mucha**

A graphic illustrator and portrait painter by trade, Alfons Mucha was famous first for his illustrations and later for his Nationalist art work called the Slav Epic. You'll have seen his designs but you may not have realised who created them. [Read more...](#)

## Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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I like to snack rather than eat big meals so I couldn't help trying some of the hot dogs on sale. Post updated with a couple of pictures including this one which will give you an idea of what to expect in the city. [Read more....](#)



It's been one of those foggy/cloudy winters so far. Not my favourite. Give me -5 and sunny any day. So when the sun came out late one afternoon as I was crossing the river from the Lesser Town heading over to the Old Town I just enjoyed the moment. [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## And the Winner is...

Well, miracles do happen. For the first time since the Havel era ended, the person I wanted to become President was elected to office.

Actually in the first round we wanted another person to get through but she never made it. In the run-off, given the choice of an ex-army General or the ex-premier we went for General Petr Pavel. The vote split almost 60/40 so not even close and already you can feel a breath of fresh air blowing through the country. I'd just like to say that the former President Miloš Zeman really set the bar standard but let's hope that President Petr Pavel does not go that low.

## Big Cats

Leopards have been in the news so much lately you'd think Prague Zoo had taken ownership of a pack of them. Of course it's all about tanks. Last year the Czech Republic became the first country to donate 20 of its T-72M4 main battle tanks to Ukraine. These were replaced by 15 Leopard 2A4 tanks from Germany. Of course since then the country has consistently denied reports that it would send some of those Leopards to Ukraine citing its respect for the German export licence restriction. Well, since January that restriction is no longer in place so for you big cat lovers you can expect Leopards to be crossing our borders in fairly large numbers this spring. And of course our national phrase of support is still Putin, Go F\*ck Yourself!

## In The News

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**As I write this newsletter the news is full of the election of President Petr Pavel but it's also worth pointing out that this week was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Vaclav Havel being elected the first President of the Czech Republic on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1993. You'll find a special tram on the network during 2023 which celebrates the events of his terms in office.**

With all the news of tanks being sent to Ukraine it's worth pointing out that the Czech Interior Ministry also supports the MEDEVAC program offering humanitarian assistance where it is needed. Although recent headlines have been about Ukraine, MEDEVAC has helped more than 5000 patients and trained/equipped several medical facilities in Asia and Africa.

**The 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards ceremony will have some Czech entries. You might not know it but the 2021 remake of the classic "All Quiet on the Western Front" was largely filmed at Barrandov Studios on the outskirts of Prague. Awards for sound, scenery and make-up are all up for grabs.**

The last two years of "Hop" production for the producing of beer in the Czech Republic has highlighted the inconsistency of relying on Mother Nature. Whereas 2021 was a record-breaking year, 2022 was not so great. The ability to import hops is not in question but brand-leading company Pilsner Urquell specifically uses the "Saaz" hop variant which comes from only two regions in the country. The lack of available water in these areas has lead the industry to get Microsoft involved to manage the local resources.

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**In the first half of 2022 the national Czech electricity provider (ČEZ) declared a net profit of CZK33.6 Billion. To put that in perspective the same period in 2021 was CZK1.6 Billion.**

Czech school classrooms are required to be heated to 19 degrees C.

**Although the 2021 Census says that the population of Prague is 1.3 million, the city planning department IPR bases its city solutions on a figure of 1.8 million i.e. anonymous mobile phone data indicates 500,000 people either live in the city who may not have been included in the census or who work on the city but do not live there.**

In 2025 you will be able to cross the river Vltava using a new Prague Public Transport cable car system.

**In a study by the Czech Institute of Mental Health, 30% of respondents indicated that they developed sleep disorders as an after effect of Covid-19.**

The 2022 Summer “Letni Letna” festival attracted 50,000 visitors.

**The current renovation of the Charles Bridge which requires the “re-pointing” of thousands of stone blocks included the addition of goat hair to the cement to make it more durable.**

25% of all Czech Art collectors say that they focus on post-WW2 contemporary art pieces to avoid problems with fake historic artworks.

**Czech man Norbert Kohler is on Spain’s top 10 most wanted list.**

In 2021, nationally there were 81 “aircraft accidents”. All involved private pilots and a total of 10 people were killed.

**Czech households account for 61% of national food waste and could potentially save CZK8000 per year by managing it better.**

# Walking Tours

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There are no walking tours in February as I take time off firstly for a warm holiday but also to get around to doing some internal projects that I can't fit in during the year. I continue to spend time answering emails from people inquiring about tours later in the year and I do a lot of reading. Yes, I'm still learning about the city even after 26 years here and what I learn I can pass on to others via the website and the tours.

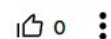
By the end of the month we'll have a weather forecast for March and I'll be getting that Spring feeling again, energised for another 2000 kilometres of guiding in 2023.

## Review

An incoming flight delay required a quick rescheduling but we sorted it out so Suzanne and her friends got to do the tours they wanted in a single day as opposed to originally splitting the tours over two days.



**Suzanne F**  
3 contributions



### Jump Start Your Visit to Prague with Jason

Aug 2022

We booked two tours (WW II & Czech Food and Beer) with Jason before our 3-day visit to Prague in August 2022. It was very easy to book and Jason kept in touch with us right up to the day of our tours. Because of a delay in our flights, we had roll the two tours into one day. Jason was very flexible and we spent one whole day seeing Prague with him. There was a slight hiccup with the meeting place since we combined two tours, but, again, Jason was very accommodating and met us where we were. It was an amazing day! Jason is well versed in the history and culture of Prague, personable, warm and entertaining. Our day with him helped us get oriented which was invaluable as we navigated Prague on our own for the next two days. If you value excellent customer service, clear communication, and knowledgeable interaction, Jason's tours are the way to jump start your visit to Prague!

[Read less](#) ^

Written January 22, 2023



## Gift Vouchers

Read about the Gift Voucher system on the [Gift Voucher page](#). You can buy individual tours as a gift for somebody and by contacting me the recipient of the gift will have options to swap tours or use the credit to upgrade to a private tour etc. Vouchers are valid for 1 year.

## Tours and Card Payment

For any Private Tours or for any Scheduled Tours booked directly through a tour calendar, clients can pay the full cost of a tour in advance by card payment with the understanding that refunds are maximum 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control). In this case you first receive a payment request which has to be completed within 48 hours. Then you receive the booking confirmation.

## Tours and Cash Payment

If you prefer to pay for a tour either scheduled or private in cash then you need to contact me. We will agree the tour details and I will quote a price in CZK and your own currency equivalent. You will then receive the booking confirmation and payment is made on the tour day at the agreed amount so in this case there is no advance payment and cancellation is free.

## Tours:

[Private Tours](#) are arranged as required.

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#) is running normally.

[City Walking Tour](#) is running normally.

[World War Two](#) is running normally.

[Architecture Tour](#) is running normally.

[Czech Food and Beer Tasting](#) is Suspended. The option of food/drink is now only on Private Tours.

[Christmas Markets](#) has restrictions: "tour-only" in 2023 with time for people to buy food/drink as required.



## Activity Spotlight! – Illusion Art Museum

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Illusion Art Museum in Melantrichova

February is statistically the coldest month of the year so you'll be looking to do a lot of things inside. Museums are an option and the Illusion Art Museum is a lot of fun. You may find published guides still show this on the Old Town Square but they have now moved 300 metres away to Melantrichova.

You'll want to allocate a couple of hours here as you stroll around looking at a variety of artistic illusions ranging from painted art to physical items arranged so that when viewed at a certain angle they create a well known picture or person.






I'm not giving away the secrets of the museum here but take my word for it, both adults and children will be fascinated by this type of creative art.

Check the post about the [Illusion Art Museum](#)

# Being Social

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**Click, Like, Subscribe, Follow, Review.** Could I ask you to spend a minute interacting with one or more of the social platforms below that have lots of great content to share. Subscribe and/or follow to stay updated.

	<p><a href="#"><u>FACEBOOK</u></a>: You can read posts, view short videos, like/share content, follow and message me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>INSTAGRAM</u></a>: You can view pictures, like/share content and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>PINTEREST</u></a>: You can view specific genre pictures, save Pins to your boards and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>YOUTUBE</u></a>: You view full length videos, comment, like/share content and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>TRIP ADVISOR</u></a>: You can view tour pictures, read and leave a tour review for others.</p>

# Surveys – Help me improve!

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If you have a bit of time then consider a survey. It's anonymous so I just see answers to questions not who it's from.

**It should take no more than 2 minutes on any survey.**

The “Quick” survey is an overview. The other surveys are content specific. You do not have to finish the whole survey so feel free to answer as many or as few questions as you want.

Just “Send It” when you're ready. You will be helping me to improve all aspects of the sites.

**Quick Survey – 1 minute survey**

**Accommodation – 2 minute survey**

**Activities – 2 minute survey**

**Walking Tours – 2 minute survey**

**Site Navigation - 1 minute survey**

## Contact Info – Engage with me!

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I've now put so much information, local knowledge, tips and tricks into the Trip Planner that I've now renamed it the Trip Planner and Mini-Guide which you can always [download for free](#).

But even that might not be enough to help. Sometimes all you want to do is ask a quick question, sometimes it's a bit of advice regarding an activity or accommodation etc. You're always welcome to contact me via one or more of the following options. Just keep an eye on your spam folder if using email. I reply within 24 hours.

**EMAIL:** [fun@livingprague.com](mailto:fun@livingprague.com)

**CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP:** +420 603 187856

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/livingpragueguide/>